

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PIPE TRADES TRUST FUNDS FOR UA LOCAL 342

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**APRIL 2025**

## **ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE for Northern California Pipe Trades Pension Plan**

### **Introduction**

This notice provides key details about your Multiemployer Pension Plan (the “Plan”) for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024 (“Plan Year”).

**This notice is informational only. You do not need to respond or take any action.**

This notice includes:

- Information about your Plan’s funding status.
- Details on your benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency.

### **What if I have questions about this notice, my Plan, or my benefits?**

Contact your Plan Administrator at:

- **Name:** Northern California Pipe Trades Pension Plan Trust Fund Office
- **Phone:** 925/356-8921, ext. 246
- **Address:** 935 Detroit Ave., Suite 242A, Concord, CA 94518-2501
- **Email:** *tfo@ncpttf.com*

To better assist you, provide your Plan Administrator with the following information when you contact them:

- **Plan Number:** 001
- **Plan Sponsor Name:** Northern California Pipe Trades Pension Plan Trust Fund Office
- **Employer Identification Number:** 94-3190386

### **What if I have questions about PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees?**

Visit [www.pbgc.gov/prac/multiemployer](http://www.pbgc.gov/prac/multiemployer) for more information. For specific information about your Pension Plan or Pension Benefits, you should contact your Plan Administrator as PBGC does not have that information.

Federal law requires all traditional pension plans, also known as defined benefit pension plans, to provide this notice every year regardless of funding status. This notice does not mean your Plan is terminating.

### **How Well Funded Is Your Plan?**

The law requires the Plan’s Administrator to explain how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage”. The funded percentage is calculated by dividing Plan assets by Plan liabilities.

In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the Plan. The chart below shows the Plan's funded percentage for the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. It also lists the value of the Plan's assets and liabilities for those years.

<b>Funded Percentage</b>			
	PLAN YEAR — 2024	PLAN YEAR — 2023	PLAN YEAR — 2022
Valuation Date	January 1, 2024	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2022
Funded Percentage	128%	119%	140%
Value of Assets	\$1,033,495,385	\$914,845,940	\$1,024,418,552
Value of Liabilities	\$807,226,488	\$766,029,448	\$730,740,171

### **Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets**

To provide further insight into the Plan's financial position, the chart below shows the fair market value of the Plan's assets on the last day of the Plan Year, and each of the two preceding plan years as compared to the actuarial value of the Plan's assets on December 31.

- **Actuarial values (shown in the chart above)** may account for market fluctuations over time, although this Plan utilizes the market value of assets as the actuarial value.
- **Market values (shown in the chart below)** fluctuate based on investment performance, providing a more immediate snapshot of the Plan's funding status.

	As of December 31, 2024*	As of December 31, 2023	As of December 31, 2022
Fair Market Value of Assets	<b>\$1,119,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,033,495,385</b>	<b>\$914,845,940</b>

\*Unaudited

### **Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status**

Under federal pension law, a plan's funding status determines the steps a plan must take to strengthen its finances and continue paying benefits:

- **Endangered:** The plan's funded percentage drops below 80 percent. The plan's trustees must adopt a funding improvement plan.
- **Critical:** The plan's funded percentage falls below 65 percent or meets other financial distress criteria. The plan's trustees must implement a rehabilitation plan.
- **Critical and Declining:** A plan in critical status is also designated as critical and declining if projected to become insolvent - meaning it will no longer have enough assets to pay out benefits - within 15 years (or within 20 years under a special rule). The plan's trustees must continue to implement the rehabilitation plan. The plan's sponsor may seek approval to amend the plan, including reducing current and future benefits.

**The Plan was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.**

If the Plan is in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status for the plan year ending December 31, 2025, a separate notification of that status has or will be provided.

### **Participant and Beneficiary Information**

The following chart shows the number of Participants and Beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the last day of the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. **The numbers for the Plan Year reflect the Plan Administrator's reasonable, good faith estimate.**

<b>Number of Participants and Beneficiaries on last day of relevant plan year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
1. Last day of plan year	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
2. Participants currently employed	2,077	2,077	2,061
3. Participants and Beneficiaries receiving benefits	1,569	1,569	1,568
4. Participants and Beneficiaries entitled to future Benefits (but not receiving Benefits)	474	474	482
5. Total number of covered Participants and Beneficiaries (Lines 2+3+4=5)	<b>4,120</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>4,111</b>

### **Funding & Investment Policies**

#### **Funding Policy**

Every pension plan must establish a funding policy to meet its objectives. The funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The Plan's funding policy is to receive the contributions made pursuant to Collective Bargaining Agreements, invest those contributions in a diversified portfolio of investments and provide, based on the funding advice of an actuary, Benefits that the Board of Trustees determines can be afforded based on the contribution rates and anticipated investment returns.

#### **Investment Policy**

Pension plans also have investment policies that provide guidelines for making investment management decisions. Once money is contributed to the Plan, the Plan's investment professionals who are Plan fiduciaries invest the money. Specific investments are made in accordance with the Plan's investment policy. The Plan's investment policy is to diversify the investments by hiring qualified investment managers with the long-term objective of providing a rate of return which meets or exceeds the assumed actuarial rate of return; maintain sufficient income and liquidity to pay Plan Benefits and expenses when due; and reserve and increase the principal value of the Plan's assets.

As of the end of the Plan Year, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following investment categories as percentages of total assets:

<b>Asset Allocations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Cash (Interest-bearing and non-interest bearing)	0.41%
2. U.S. Government securities	10.31%
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	0.00%
All others	2.86%
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	0.00%
Common	16.13%
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	5.36%
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	0.00%
7. Loans (other than to Participants)	0.00%
8. Participant loans	0.00%
9. Value of interest in common/collective trusts	24.76%
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	0.00%
11. Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	0.00%
12. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	0.00%
13. Value of interest in registered investment companies, like mutual funds	40.17%
14. Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	0.00%
15. Employer-related investments:	
Employer securities	0.00%
Employer real property	0.00%
16. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	0.00%
17. Other	0.00%

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments: common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, or 103-12 investment entities - contact the Plan Administrator, see contact information on the first page.

The average return on assets for the Plan Year was 7.2%.

#### **Events Having a Material Effect on Assets or Liabilities**

By law, this notice must include an explanation of any new events that materially affect the Plan's liabilities or assets. These events could affect the Plan's financial health or its ability to meet its obligations.

For the Plan Year beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024, there were no such events identified.

### **Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report**

Pension plans must file an annual report, called the **Form 5500**, with the U.S. Department of Labor. The Form 5500 includes financial and other information about these pension plans. You can get a copy of your Plan's Form 5500:

- **Online:** Visit [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) to search for your Plan's Form 5500.
- **By Mail:** Submit a written request to your Plan Administrator.
- **By Phone:** Call 202/693-8673 to speak with a representative of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room.

The Form 5500 does not include personal information, such as your accrued benefits. For details about your accrued benefits, contact your Plan Administrator.

### **Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans**

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the Annual Funding Notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by PBGC, below), the plan must apply to PBGC for financial assistance. PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

### **Benefit Payments Guaranteed by PBGC**

Only vested benefits (those that you've earned and cannot forfeit) are guaranteed.

#### **What PBGC Guarantees**

PBGC guarantees "basic benefits" including:

- Pension benefits at normal retirement age.
- Most early retirement benefits.
- Annuity benefits for survivors of plan participants.

#### **What PBGC Does Not Guarantee**

PBGC does not guarantee certain types of benefits, including:

- A participant's pension benefit or benefit increase until it has been part of the plan for 60 full months. Any month in which the multiemployer plan was insolvent or terminated due to mass withdrawal does not count toward this 60-month requirement.
- Any benefits above the normal retirement benefit.
- Disability benefits in non-pay status.
- Non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

## Determining Guarantee Amounts

The maximum benefit PBGC guarantees is set by law. Your Plan is covered by PBGC's multiemployer program. The maximum PBGC guarantee is \$35.75 per month, multiplied by a participant's years of credited service.

PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit based on the plan's monthly benefit accrual rate and your years of credited service. The guarantee is calculated as follows:

1. Take 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate.
2. Take 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate.
3. Add both amounts together.
4. Multiply the total by your years of credited service to determine your guaranteed monthly benefit.

*Example 1:* Participant with a \$600 Monthly Benefit and 10 Years of Service.

1. Find the accrual rate:  $\$600/10 = \$60$  accrual rate.
2. Apply PBGC formula:  
Take 100 percent of the first \$11 = \$11  
Take 75 percent of the next \$33 = \$24.75
3. Add the two amounts together:  $\$11 + \$24.75 = \$35.75$
4. Multiply by years of credited service:  $\$35.75 \times 10 \text{ years} = \$357.50$

In this example, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50.

*Example 2:* Participant with a \$200 Monthly Benefit and 10 Years of Service.

1. Find the accrual rate:  $\$200/10 = \$20$  accrual rate.
2. Apply PBGC formula:  
Take 100 percent of the first \$11 = \$11  
Take 75 percent of the next \$9 = \$6.75
3. Add the two amounts together:  $\$11 + \$6.75 = \$17.75$
4. Multiply by years of credited service:  $\$17.75 \times 10 \text{ years} = \$177.50$

In this example, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$177.50.